RECEIPT # 50/3

SUMMONS ISSUED 1

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BY DPTY. CLK. M

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT ICE

WILLIAM M. BYRD,

Plaintiff,

v.

AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. and DEBRA EDMUNDS,

Defendants.

2031 MAY 21 P 1: 44

'S. PISTRICT COURT EISTRICT OF MASS.

Civil Action No.

04011032DF

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

MAGISTRATE JUDGE Colling

TO THE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS:

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446 Defendants, Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (hereinafter, "Aventis") and Debra Edmunds (hereinafter, "Edmunds") (hereinafter, Aventis and Edmunds together, "Defendants"), respectfully submit this Notice of Removal of the instant civil action. As grounds for this removal, Defendants state that:

- 1. An action was commenced against Defendants in the Middlesex County Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by service of a Complaint styled as Civil Action No. 04-1684. A true and correct copy of the Complaint is annexed hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 2. The above-referenced action was commenced against Edmunds by service of the Complaint on April 28, 2004.
- 3. The above-referenced action was commenced against Aventis by service of the Complaint on May 6, 2004.

4. No further proceedings have occurred in the state action. Neither Defendant has served any answer or responsive pleading to the Complaint, nor made any appearance or argument before the Suffolk County Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

FEDERAL QUESTION REMOVAL

- 1. This Court has original jurisdiction under the provisions of 29 U.S.C. 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b), in that Plaintiff here claims damages pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2000(e), 42 U.S.C. § 1981 et seq., and/or 29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq. and 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Specifically, in Count II plaintiff alleges that Defendants discriminated against him because of his age and race. In Count VII plaintiff alleges that Defendants violated his civil rights.
- 2. Because the United States District Courts have original jurisdiction over plaintiff's federal statutory claims brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2000(e), 42 U.S.C. § 1981 et seq., and/or 29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq. and 42 U.S.C. § 1983, removal of this case to this Court under the circumstances herein is proper.
- 3. Defendants submit this Notice without waiving any defenses to the claims asserted by Plaintiff or conceding Plaintiff has pled claims upon which relief may be granted.

4. Defendants are filing contemporaneously with this Notice a copy of this Notice with the Clerk of the Middlesex County Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A copy of that notification is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

WHEREFORE, Defendants pray that the above-action now pending against it in the Middlesex County Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts be removed therefrom to this Court.

Respectfully submitted,

AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. and DEBRA EDMUNDS,

Joan Ackerstein (BBO# 549872) Samia M. Kirmani (BBO# 634699) JACKSON LEWIS LLP

75 Park Plaza

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

(617) 367-0025; FAX: (617) 367-2155

Dated: 5/21/04

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on this 21 day of , 2004, I caused a true and accurate copy of the above document to be served upon Plaintiff's counsel, John Koslowsky, Esq., 424 Adams Street, Milton, Massachusetts 02186, by first-class mail, postage prepaid.

Jackson Lewis LLP

Case 1:04-cv-11032-DPW Document 1 Filed 05/21/2004 Page 4 of 20

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL ACTION NO.

05/10/04 11:56 FAX 9082437599

AVENTIS EMPLOYMENT LAW

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, ss.	
WILLIAM M. BYRD,)
Plaintiff)
v)
AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.,	j
and DEBRA EDMUNDS,)
Defendants.)

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff William M. Byrd (hereinafter "Plaintiff") is a citizen of the United States, and now and during the course of his employment with defendant resides at 38 Meadowview Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186.
- 2. Defendant Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (hereinafter "Aventis") is a foreign corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, licensed to do business in the State of Massachusetts, and is engaged in the production, marketing and/or sale of pharmaceuticals throughout the United States, with a usual place of business located at 3rd Avenue, Waltham, Massachusetts.
- 3. Defendant Debra Edmunds (hereinafter "Ms. Edmunds") is an individual residing at 308 Concord Road, Wayland, Massachusetts.

FACTS

4. Plaintiff was hired and began working for Aventis on or about May 12, 1997.

- At the time of his hiring, Plaintiff had significant experience as a sale 5. representative in the medical industry.
- Plaintiff was employed in the sales division of Aventis as a sale б. representative.
- Due to the inherently discriminatory selective enforcement of company 7. policies used and approved of by Aventis, Plaintiff was terminated.
- Due to Aventis's wrongful practice of selective enforcement of company 8. policies against minorities, Plaintiff was targeted for termination, while other nonminority employees were being allowed to not comply with those same policies.
- Aventis has a history and pattern of discriminating and retaliating against 9. minorities in exactly the same manner as they did against the Plaintiff
- When Aventis decides to terminate a minority employee it utilizes 10. "selective enforcement" of its policies to accomplish this based on three (3) methods: i) falsifications of records; ii) not being a team player; and iii) failure to perform.
- Aventis alleges that the Plaintiff was terminated as a result of a purported falsified expense report and call activity and Plaintiff's alleged continuous failure to comply with established company guidelines.
- Aventis's stated reasons for termination is a pretext for the real reason that 12. the Plaintiff was terminated.
- In 1999, Ms. Edmunds became the Plaintiff's District Manager with 13. Aventis.
 - Shortly thereafter, Ms. Edmunds went out on maternity leave. 14.

- After returning from maternity leave, Ms. Edmunds began to degrade 15. Plaintiff and treat Plaintiff differently from the other caucasian employees of Aventis.
- Prior to this time, Plaintiff received outstanding reviews for his work with 16. Aventis.
- On or about September 18, 2000, Plaintiff received his mid-year 17. performance review from Ms. Edmunds, which was completely inaccurate and negative.
- As a result of this Mid-Year review by Ms. Edmunds, and the fact he was 18. being singled out and treated differently than other employees of Aventis, Plaintiff requested a meeting with his Regional Director at Aventis, Christine List (hereinafter "Ms. List").
- On September 25, 2000, Plaintiff first met with Ms. List, and subsequently 19. met with Ms. List and Ms. Edmunds.
- Plaintiff requested this meeting to express his objection to his Mid-Year 20. review because of the inaccuracies contained therein; to attempt to discover why Ms. Edmunds was apparently targeting him; to inform Ms. List that he was being discriminated against; and to request that he be transferred to another District Manager.
- During this meeting, Ms. List acknowledged that she informed Ms. 21. Edmunds that her Mid-Year review was too negative against the Plaintiff.
- Although discrimination is a very sensitive issue, particularly for a current 22. employee to raise, Plaintiff informed Ms. List at their meeting that he was being discriminated against.

- Plaintiff informed Ms. List that he was being treated differently because of 23. his color; that he was required to do things other people were not; that he was being held to a higher standard; and that he was being criticized for things that other caucasian employees were not.
- Plaintiff also asked for a transfer to a new District Manager, which request 24. Ms. List denied.
- As African-American, Plaintiff was required to excel above and beyond 25. other caucasian employees at Aventis; otherwise he would be targeted and disciplined.
- As a direct result of requesting the meeting and expressing his concerns to 26. Ms. List, on November 14, 2000, Ms. Edmunds provided Plaintiff with a written warning.
- Thereafter, Plaintiff was scrutinized even more closely than the other 27. caucasian sale representatives at Aventis, and constantly singled out and disciplined for precisely the same things other caucasian employees were allowed to do.
- Although Plaintiff went to great lengths to accommodate the company 28. policies and save his job, Aventis selectively enforced different policies in an attempt to find fault with his performance.
- After receiving a final written warning placing him on probation, Aventis 29, stopped paying Plaintiff his bonus/commissions.
- Plaintiff asked Ms. Edmunds what he needed to do to get off probation and restore his bonus/commissions, and Ms. Edmunds informed him that he would never get off probation.

- At the National Sales Meeting of Aventis during the week of January 8, 31. 2002, Plaintiff was one of three sales representatives who received the "Market Share Award on Allegra" from Aventis.
 - 32. On February 4, 2002, Aventis terminated the Plaintiff as an employee.
 - 33. Plaintiff believes he was terminated because of his race and/or age.
- Plaintiff performed his job functions in a satisfactory manner for Aventis. 34. even receiving achievement awards.
- At the time Plaintiff was terminated, of the estimated 350 sale 35. representatives employed by the Aventis in the New England area, there was only one (1) other African-American sale representative, and there were no other African-American sale representatives over the age of 40.
- 36. Since Plaintiff was terminated, Aventis has hired other sales representatives under the age of 40.
- Plaintiff's record of employment was good and evidences a consistent 37. pattern on behalf of Plaintiff to improve himself and to establish his qualifications for advancement.
- Plaintiff's work record clearly indicates he was qualified to serve as a sale 38. representative.

COUNT I - VIOLATION OF M.G.L. c. 151B (Race/Age Discrimination and/or Retaliation)

- Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations 39. contained in Paragraphs 1 through 38 of his Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
 - Aventis is an employer within the meaning of M.G.L. c. 151B, §1(5). 40.
 - Plaintiff is a member of a protected class under M.G.L. c. 151B. 41.

- Aventis discriminated against Plaintiff based on race and/or age. 42.
- By the selective enforcement of its policies against the Plaintiff and other 43. minorities, Aventis has discriminated against the Plaintiff.
- As a result of and/or in retaliation for requesting a meeting with Ms. List 44. in an attempt to stop the discrimination, the Plaintiff was further targeted and subsequently discharged from employment by Aventis.
 - Aventis' conduct constitutes a violation of M.G.L. c. 151B. 45.
- 46. Aventis' actions and/or inactions were knowing, willful, and intentional violations of the law and committed with reckless disregard for Plaintiff's rights.
- As a result of Aventis' conduct, Plaintiff suffered damages including but 47. not limited to, lost employment, lost wages and benefits, emotional distress, attorney's fees and costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Aventis in an amount to be determined, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

COUNT II - VIOLATION OF 42 USC § 2000e et seq. (Race/Age Discrimination and/or Retaliation)

- Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations 48. contained in Paragraphs 1 through 47 of his Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
- Aventis is an employer within the meaning of 42 USC §§ 2000e et seq., 49. 42 USC §§ 1981 et seq., and/or 29 USC §§ 621 et seq.
- Plaintiff is a member of a protected class under 42 USC §§ 2000e et seq., 42 USC §§ 1981 et seq., and/or 29 USC §§ 621 et seq.
 - Aventis discriminated against Plaintiff based on race and/or age.

- By the selective enforcement of its policies against the Plaintiff and other 52. minorities, Aventis has discriminated against the Plaintiff.
- As a result of and/or in retaliation for requesting a meeting with Ms. List 53. in an attempt to stop the discrimination, the Plaintiff was further targeted and subsequently discharged from employment from Aventis.
- Aventis' conduct constitute violations of 42 USC §§ 2000e et seq., 42 54. USC §§ 1981 et seq., and 29 USC §§ 621 et seq.
- Aventis' actions and/or inactions were knowing, willful, and intentional 55. violations of the law and committed with reckless disregard for Plaintiff's rights.
- 56. As a result of Aventis' conduct, Plaintiff suffered damages including but not limited to, lost employment, lost wages and benefits, emotional distress, attorney's fees and costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the Aventis in an amount to be determined, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

COUNT III (Wrongful Termination)

- Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations 57. contained in Paragraphs 1 through 56 of his Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
- By the selective enforcement of its policies against the Plaintiff and other 5**8**. minorities, Aventis has discriminated against the Plaintiff.
- As a result of and/or in retaliation for requesting a meeting with Ms. List 59. in an attempt to stop the discrimination, the Plaintiff was further targeted and subsequently discharged from employment from Aventis.

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AVENTIS EMPLOYMENT LAW

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60. As a direct and approximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Aventis, the Plaintiff suffered a diminution of incapacity, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of employment and/or the opportunity for employment benefits, severe emotional distress, post traumatic distress, pain, suffering and other emotional and economic injuries and damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Aventis in an amount to be determined, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

COUNT IV (Breach of Contract)

- 61. Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 59 of his Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
- 62. By the selective enforcement of its policies against the Plaintiff and other minorities, Aventis has discriminated against the Plaintiff.
- 63. As a result of and/or in retaliation for requesting a meeting with Ms. List in an attempt to stop the discrimination, the Plaintiff was further targeted and subsequently discharged from employment from Aventis.
- 64. The conduct of Aventis and its agents, principals, servants, employees and/or representatives was conducted in bad faith.
- 65. Aventis has breached its contract with Plaintiff despite Plaintiff having provided consideration and/or having relied to his detriment on Aventis' promises.

66. As a direct and approximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Aventis, the Plaintiff suffered a diminution of incapacity, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of employment and/or the opportunity for employment benefits, severe emotional distress, post traumatic distress, pain, suffering and other emotional and economic injuries and damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Aventis in an amount to be determined, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

COUNT V (Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing)

- Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 66 of the Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
- 68. Aventis has breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, which existed with Plaintiff in connection with the contract of employment.
- 69. Plaintiff has suffered and incurred damages as a result of the Aventis' breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.
- 70. As a direct and approximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Aventis, the Plaintiff suffered a diminution of earning capacity, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of employment, loss of the opportunity for employment benefits, severe emotional distress, post traumatic distress, pain, suffering and other emotional and economic injuries and damages.
- 71. Aventis is liable, both jointly and severally, to Plaintiff for all damages caused by their breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, plus interest, and costs.

AVENTIS EMPLOYMENT LAW

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WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Aventis in an amount to be determined at trial, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

COUNT VI

(Tortuous Interference With Advantageous and/or Contractual Relations)

- Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations 72. contained in Paragraphs 1 through 71 of the Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
- Ms. Edmunds improperly interfered with Plaintiff's advantageous and/or contractual relations with Aventis.
- As a direct and approximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Ms. 74. Edmunds, the Plaintiff suffered a diminution of earning capacity, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of employment, loss of the opportunity for employment benefits, severe emotional distress, post traumatic distress, pain, suffering and other emotional and economic injuries and damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Ms. Edmunds, in an amount to be determined at trial, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

COUNT VII

(Intentional Interference With Advantageous and/or Contractual Relations)

- Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations 75. contained in Paragraphs 1 through 74 of the Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
- Ms. Edmunds improperly interfered with Plaintiff's advantageous and/or 76. contractual relations with Aventis.

77. As a direct and approximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Ms.

Edmunds, the Plaintiff suffered a diminution of earning capacity, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of employment, loss of the opportunity for employment benefits, severe emotional distress, post traumatic distress, pain, suffering and other emotional and economic injuries and damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Ms. Edmunds in an amount to be determined at trial, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

COUNT VIII (Violation of Massachusetts Civil Rights)

- 78. Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 77 of the Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
- 79. Aventis and/or Ms. Edmunds have interfered and/or attempted to interfere with Plaintiff's rights under the laws and/or constitutions of the United States and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by threats, intimidation and/or coercion.
- 80. The conduct of Aventis and/or Ms. Edmunds constitutes a violation of Plaintiff's rights under M.G.L. c. 12 §§ 11I.
- As a direct and approximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Aventis and/or Ms. Edmunds, the Plaintiff suffered a diminution of earning capacity, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of employment, loss of the opportunity for employment benefits, severe emotional distress, post traumatic distress, pain, suffering and other emotional and economic injuries and damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount to be determined at trial, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

<u>COUNT VII</u> (Violation of Federal Civil Rights)

- 82. Plaintiff herein repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 81 of the Complaint as if separately set forth herein.
- 83. Aventis and/or Ms. Edmunds have interfered and/or attempted to interfere with Plaintiff's rights under the laws and/or constitutions of the United States and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by threats, intimidation and/or coercion.
- 84. The conduct of Aventis and/or Ms. Edmunds constitutes a violation of Plaintiff's rights under 42 USC §§ 1983.
- As a direct and approximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Aventis and/or Ms. Edmunds, the Plaintiff suffered a diminution of earning capacity, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, loss of employment, loss of the opportunity for employment benefits, severe emotional distress, post traumatic distress, pain, suffering and other emotional and economic injuries and damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount to be determined at trial, with interest, costs, attorney's fees, compensatory damages, punitive damage, and any other relief this court deems appropriate.

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AVENTIS EMPLOYMENT LAW

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM M. BYRD,

By his attorneys,

Paul K. Flavin BBO No. 171145 John C. Koslowsky BBO No. 561616 Flavin & Koslowsky 424 Adams Street Milton, MA 02186

(617) 698-3000

Mpal 15 Dated: February __, 2004 2002-17P

SJS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE RESERVERSE OF THE FORM.)

Page 19 of 20

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDAN'	TS		
William M.	Byrd			Aventis Pl Debra Edm	na∰adeúțiicals, unds	Inc. and	
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Norfolk (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				Gounty of Residence of First listed LISTRICT OF INVA SEAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known)			
424 Adams Street Milton, MA 02186				Jackson Lewis LLP 75 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116			
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)			RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for De fendant)	
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C	S IS A CLASS ACTI P. 23	ION DE	MAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	y if demanded in complaint: l: ▲ Yes □ No	
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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		r, if any, of related cases. (See local ruse indicate the title and number of the		prior related case has been filed in
Has a	prior actio	n between the same parties and base	d on the same claim ever been	filed in this court?
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